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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/553,126

07/02/2007

Seong No Yoon

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1705

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MCKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP  
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EXAMINER

HECKERT, JASON MARK

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1711

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

01/07/2011

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/553,126	<b>Applicant(s)</b> YOON ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> JASON HECKERT	<b>Art Unit</b> 1711	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 November 2010.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 7-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 7-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                     | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Arguments***

1. Applicant's arguments filed 11/5/10 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant has amended the claims such that the a panel frame is provided at a rear of the control panel and supporting the control panel, and that the panel frame supports the top cover with being in contact with a bottom of the top cover. Such limitations are still found to be unpatentable over the prior art of record. First, a separate interpretation of Faini would still read on the instant application. For example, items 14, 12 can read on the panel frame's supporting element that is in contact with the bottom of top cover 11. This "panel frame" functions to also support the front panel 13. Thus, the control panel of the ASA could be attached just as item 13 is attached to Faini, with items 14, 12 readable on the panel frame at a rear of the control panel, with supporting elements to support the top cover.

2. In addition, the peripheral frame can be considered a part of the top cover, in which case the previous rejection is still found to hold merit.

3. If the applicant would like to discuss future amendments over the phone, the applicant is available for interview.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 7, 12-13 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the ASA in view of Faini (GB 2243770). As it stands, the applicant's claims are still very broad, and a reasonable interpretation of the ASA in view of Faini would still obviate the instant claims. First, the front, side, back, and top covers are readily disclosed by the ASA, as is a control panel mounted to the frame. The ASA does not disclose a panel frame provided at a rear of the control panel and supporting the control panel, specifically by a member that supports the bottom. Item 12, 14, 17 of Faini reads on the applicant's panel frame. It supports both the top cover 11 as well as the front panel 10. It includes part 14 which reads on a supporting member that supports the bottom of 11. Polyacetal is common material, and is not considered to be a patentably distinct feature. Faini also teaches enamel coating. It would have been obvious at the time of invention to modify the ASA with the mating elements of Faini, as they are well established elements in the art of appliance cabinetry and would provide expected results to one of ordinary skill.

6. Claims 7-22 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the ASA in view of Faini (GB 2243770). A different interpretation of the ASA in view of Faini follows:

7. The ASA clearly discusses locating a control panel at the upper region of the front cover of a washing machine. However, the ASA does not disclose a panel with a recessed portion thus forming a bead or ledge to support the top cover. Instead, the supporting mechanisms in the ASA are holes. However, Faini discloses a top cover supporting mechanism that could be readily implemented into the panel of the ASA.

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Faini teaches a recessed hook 20 along with along with a recessed bead 13b that matingly engages with the top cover and its peripheral frame (see figure 4). The top cover's frame sits on hook 12, and is held in place by the bead. If one views the peripheral frame as part of the top cover, then the device of Faini reads on the instant application, as the beat 13b supports the top cover as well as hook 21. In regards to claim 15, the process by which the components are made is not germane to the issue of patentability. Furthermore, machine pressing and machine bending are very established in the art. Faini additionally teaches an enamel coated top cover. In regards to claim 8 and 16, the top cover supporting member includes a hook. The hook is formed at an upper front edge. The top cover is placed on an upper portion of the supporting member. In regards to claims 11 and 18, the hook can be fastened to the hook fastening slot and is in close contact with the upper and lower surfaces. In regards to claim 12, polyacetal is a known polymer in the art and its mere inclusion does not warrant patentability. In regards to new claims 21-22, manufacturing components such that they matingly engage is routine in the art. Manufacturing support parts that are convex and concave and thus matingly engage would provide predictable results to one of ordinary skill. It would have been obvious at the time of invention to modify the ASA and include a control panel frame with the support features of Faini, in order to support the top cover of the washing machine.

### ***Conclusion***

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

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§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JASON HECKERT whose telephone number is (571)272-2702. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. to Friday, 9:00 - 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Barr can be reached on (571)272-1414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Michael Barr/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art  
Unit 1711

JMH